

Fact Sheet: Mid-Point Planning Grants



Purpose

These noncompetitive grants support groups in conducting evaluations and/or amending comprehensive watershed management plans developed through the One Watershed, One Plan program. Funding is from Clean Water Funds appropriated to BWSR for developing comprehensive watershed management plans.

The *One Watershed, One Plan – Plan Content Requirements* requires a schedule for a **five year evaluation*** of progress, along with an examination of new data, to determine whether a plan amendment is warranted (section III.G.5.c).

- c. **Five Year Evaluation:** Include a schedule for a thorough five year assessment and potential revision to the implementation schedule. The purpose of this evaluation is to determine progress and consider whether staying the course or resetting direction is necessary. It may also include revisions to models and considerations of new monitoring data. If a WRAPS has been completed or revised since the plan was originally adopted, this evaluation must include an assessment of any changes to the plan necessary due to new information

Eligibility Requirements

These grants are available to partnerships of local governments that are implementing a BWSR approved, locally adopted comprehensive watershed management plan developed via the One Watershed, One Plan program. Partnerships must have entered into a formal agreement to collaboratively implement the plan.

Eligible Activities

Two main activities are allowable under these grants: evaluation and plan amendments.

Evaluation. Activities described in the “Evaluating” section of [Guidance for Assessing the Implementation of Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans](#) (pages 6-9) are eligible under this grant. Each item in the list below should be examined to determine if a plan amendment is needed.

- New information
- Progress toward plan goals
- Administrative or other changes

Plan Amendments. This funding can be used for amending a comprehensive watershed management plan. See the “**Plan Amendments**” chapter of the [One Watershed, One Plan Guidebook](#) (page 53).

Amount, Availability and Timing

Amount: Up to \$50,000.

Availability: One grant is available to each eligible partnership on a non-competitive basis.

Timing: Eligible partnerships may access these funds at the mid-point of the plan implementation period. Timing may vary depending on factors including timing of Watershed-Based Implementation Funding grants, MPCA’s monitoring cycle, and BWSR’s PRAP schedule. Groups must work with their BWSR Board Conservationist and the One Watershed, One Plan program coordinator to determine the appropriate time to access funding.

Administration

Funds will be administered as an independent item in a Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) grant agreement. Unused funds must be returned to BWSR; they cannot be used to implement other items in the WBIF work plan.

Request: Following discussion with the Board Conservationist and program coordinator, eligible partnerships may request up to \$50,000 in an eLINK WBIF budget request. This request will most likely occur on the third WBIF grant. The plan maintenance item must include a description of proposed outcomes.

Work Plan: Once approved, the budget request becomes the grant work plan.

Reporting: Reporting in eLINK will include a brief description of the actual outcomes along with a reference to documentation of the evaluation and/or the amended plan. For plan amendments requiring BWSR approval, the amendment must be submitted to BWSR by the grant end date (BWSR does not need to approve the amendment to fulfill the terms of the grant).

*In December 2022, the One Watershed, One Plan – Plan Content Requirements were amended, changing “Five year evaluation” to “mid-point evaluation” to provide increased flexibility for the timing of this activity.

